#### ≥JS 44 (Rev. 11/04)

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APPENDIX H

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE PRIVACE OF THE FORM.)

(a) PLAINTIFF		DEFENDANTS		
Opal Chabrie individually a	r, Donald Lamutis, and Steven Turner, and on behalf of all others similarly situated,	Wilmington Finan	nce, Inc.	
(b) County of Reside	nce of First Listed Plaintiff Boone County, KY	County of Residence	of First Listed Defendant	Montgomery County, PA
	(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)		(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES	ONLY)
			D CONDEMNATION CASES, US INVOLVED.	SE THE LOCATION OF THE
(c) Attorney's (Firm N	ame, Address, and Telephone Number)	Attorneys (If Known)		
Shanon J. Carso Philadelphia, PA	n, Esq., Berger & Montague, P.C., 1622 Locust Street, 19103 (215) 875-4656			
II. BASIS OF JURI	SDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF P	PRINCIPAL PARTIES	
3 1 U.S. Government	Federal Question	(For Diversity Cases Only)	DED	and One Box for Defendant)
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government Not a Party)	PTF Citizen of This State	DEF  1 1	PTF DEF
	(o.b. dovernment not a larg)	CREET OF THIS STATE	of Business In Thi	<b>-</b>
J 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity	Citizen of Another State	2 Incorporated and I of Business In .	
	(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	-		
		Citizen or Subject of a  Foreign Country	1 3	0606
V. NATURE OF S				
3 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJURY		BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
3 120 Marine	PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJURY  310 Airplane  362 Personal Injury		☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 ☐ 423 Withdrawal	☐ 400 State Reapportionment☐ 410 Antitrust
<ul><li>3 130 Miller Act</li><li>3 140 Negotiable Instrument</li></ul>	☐ 315 Airplane Product Med. Malpractics Liability ☐ 365 Personal Injury	e 🗇 625 Drug Related Seizure	28 USC 157	430 Banks and Banking
3 150 Recovery of Overpaym		- of Property 21 USC 881  ☐ 630 Liquor Laws	PROPERTY RIGHTS	☐ 450 Commerce ☐ 460 Deportation
& Enforcement of Judgr		al 🗇 640 R.R. & Truck	☐ 820 Copyrights	☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and
<ul> <li>151 Medicare Act</li> <li>152 Recovery of Defaulted</li> </ul>	☐ 330 Federal Employers' Injury Product Liability Liability	☐ 650 Airline Regs. ☐ 660 Occupational	☐ 830 Patent ☐ 840 Trademark	Corrupt Organizations  480 Consumer Credit
Student Loans	☐ 340 Marine PERSONAL PROPER	RTY Safety/Health		☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV
(Excl. Veterans)  J 153 Recovery of Overpayin	ant Liability 345 Marine Product 370 Other Fraud	☐ 690 Other  LABOR	SOCIAL SECURITY	☐ 810 Selective Service ☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/
of Veteran's Benefits	☐ 350 Motor Vehicle ☐ 380 Other Personal	710 Fair Labor Standards	☐ 861 HIA (1395ff)	Exchange
J 160 Stockholders' Suits J 190 Other Contract	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Property Damage	Act	☐ 862 Black Lung (923)	875 Customer Challenge
J 195 Contract Product Liabil	Product Liability 385 Property Damag ity 360 Other Personal Product Liability	e 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting	☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) ☐ 864 SSID Title XVI	12 USC 3410 ☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions
J 196 Franchise	<u>Injury</u>	& Disclosure Act	☐ 865 RSI (405(g))	☐ 891 Agricultural Acts
J 210 Land Condemnation	CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONER PETITIO  □ 441 Voting □ 510 Motions to Vaca	······································	FEDERAL TAX SUITS  ☐ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	☐ 892 Economic Stabilization Ac ☐ 893 Environmental Matters
J 220 Foreclosure	442 Employment Sentence	790 Oniel Labor Enganon	or Defendant)	☐ 894 Energy Allocation Act
<ul><li>J 230 Rent Lease &amp; Ejectmer</li><li>J 240 Torts to Land</li></ul>		Security Act	☐ 871 IRS—Third Party	☐ 895 Freedom of Information
3 245 Tort Product Liability	Accommodations		26 USC 7609	Act ☐ 900Appeal of Fee Determination
J 290 All Other Real Property	☐ 445 Amer, w/Disabilities - ☐ 540 Mandamus & Ot	ther		Under Equal Access
	Employment 550 Civil Rights  446 Amer. w/Disabilities - 555 Prison Condition	, ·		to Justice  950 Constitutionality of
	Other  440 Other Civil Rights			State Statutes
Original 🗆	Place an "X" in One Box Only) Removed from	T Reinstated or D anoth	ferred from 6 Multidist	Appeal to Distric Appeal from Judge from Magistrate
Proceeding	State Court Appellate Court  Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you	Reopened (spec are filing (Do not cite jurisdiction		
VI. CAUSE OF AC	TION The Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et s Brief description of cause:	eq.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
VII. REQUESTED	Violation of overtime requirements of the Fair Labo  CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTIO			if demanded in complaint:
COMPLAINT:	UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	N DEMIAND \$	JURY DEMAND	
VIII. RELATED CA	ASE(S) (See instructions): JUDGE	TO THE SUM MILE OF BUILDINGS	DOCKET NUMBER	
DATE	SIGNATURE OF A	ITORNEY OF RECORD		
September 18, 2006	//			
OR OFFICE USE ONLY		my war		
RECEIPT#	AMOUNT APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JU	DGE

APPENDIX I

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

## **CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM**

Telephone	FAX Numbe	r <u>    [C_1]</u>	Mail Address
Date (215) 875-4656	Attorney-at-l: (215) 875-4604	aw Att	net
September 18, 2006	Shanon J. Carson		town ov. for
(f) Standard Management	- Cases that do not fal	l into any one of the other	tracks.
•	s complex and that nee	into tracks (a) through (d) ed special or intense mand detailed explanation of sp	agement by
(d) Asbestos – Cases invo exposure to asbestos.	ving claims for person	nal injury or property dam	age from
(c) Arbitration – Cases rec	uired to be designated	for arbitration under Loc	al Civil Rule 53.2. ( )
(b) Social Security – Case and Human Services d			ry of Health
(a) Habeas Corpus – Case	s brought under 28 U.	S.C. §2241 through §225	5. ( )
SELECT ONE OF THE	FOLLOWING CAS	E MANAGEMENT TR	ACKS:
plaintiff shall complete a ca the complaint and serve a of this form.) In the event that defendant shall, with i	ase Management Track copy on all defendants that a defendant does not first appearance, sub tagement track designa	Designation Form in all ci . (See § 1:03 of the plan not agree with the plaintiff omit to the clerk of court a	n of this court, counsel for a vil cases at the time of filing set forth on the reverse side regarding said designation, and serve on the plaintiff and rack to which that defendant
WILMINGTON FINANC	E, INC.	:	
v.		:	
of all others similarly situa	<u> </u>	:	NO.
OPAL CHABRIER, DON STEVEN TURNER, indix	•		CIVIL ACTION

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

APPENDIX F

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATI assignment to appropriate calendar.	ON FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of					
Address of PlaintiffOpal Chabrier, 7494 Lofto	on Court,Florence, KY 41017					
Address of Defendant: Wilmington Finance, Inc	c., 401 Plymouth Rd., Suite 400, Plymouth					
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Plaintiffs are challenging a nationwide Meeting 1946 (Use Reverse Side For Additional Space) practice						
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any pare	ent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?					
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with I	Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)) Yes□ No□					
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?  RELATED CASE, IF ANY:	Yes□ NotXX					
Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated:					
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following	questions:					
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pendi	ng or within one year previously terminated action in this court?					
	Yes□ NoXX					
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same tran						
action in this court?	Yes□ NoXX					
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in						
terminated action in this court?	Yes□ NoQX					
CIVIL: (Place  in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)  A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:					
Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	Diversity of statement cases.     Insurance Contract and Other Contracts					
2. D FELA	2. Airplane Personal Injury					
3.   Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. Assault, Defamation					
4. Antitrust	4.   Marine Personal Injury					
5. D Patent	5.  Motor Vehicle Personal Injury					
6. Labor-Management Relations	6.  Other Personal Injury (Please specify)					
7. Civil Rights	7. Products Liability					
8. Habeas Corpus	8. Products Liability — Asbestos					
9.	9.  All other Diversity Cases					
10.  Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify)					
11. XX All other Federal Question Cases 29 U.S.C.201 (Please specify)	et seq.					
	ION CERTIFICATION k appropriate Category)					
I, Shanon J. Carson , counsel of record	d do hereby certify:					
EXPursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;	of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case					
KK Relief other than monetary damages is sought.						
DATE: Sept. 18, 2006 Attorney-at-Law	85957 Attorney I.D.#					
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by j	ury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.					
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case nexcept as noted above.	ow pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court					
DATE: Sept. 18, 2006	85957 Attorney I.D.#					
CTV 609 (4/03)	I moine, non					

## Case 2:06-cv-04176-NS Document 1 Filed 09/18/06 Page 4 of 20

Address of Plaintiff: Donald Lamutis, 6510 Twin Lakes Drive,

Mason, OH 45040

Steven Turner, 3884 Mantell Avenue, Cincinnatti,

OH 45236

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

APPENDIX F

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.						
Address of Plaintiff: Opal Chabrier, 7494 Lofton	Court Floronge RV 41017					
Address of Defendant: Wilmington Finance, Inc.,	401 Plymouth Pd Suite 400 Plymouth					
Address of Defendant: Wilmington Finance, Inc., 401 Plymouth Rd., Suite 400, Plymouth  Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Plaintiffs are challenging a nationwide practice  (Use Reverse Side For Additional Space)						
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporate	<del>"</del>					
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.C.	iv.P. 7.1(a)) Yes No					
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?  RELATED CASE, IF ANY:	Yes NAX					
Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated:					
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following question						
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or wi						
	·- D Gr					
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction	YES 그 NOLA X as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated					
action in this court?	Yes□ NoXX					
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or an	ny earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously					
terminated action in this court?	Yes NoXX					
CIVIL: (Place V in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)  A. Federal Question Cases:						
1.   Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:					
2. \$\square\$ FELA	1.  Insurance Contract and Other Contracts					
3.  Jones Act-Personal Injury	2. A Airplane Personal Injury					
4. Antitrust	3. Assault, Defamation					
5. Patent	4. Marine Personal Injury  5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury					
6. Labor-Management Relations	The state of the s					
7. Civil Rights	<ul> <li>6. ☐ Other Personal Injury (Please specify)</li> <li>7. ☐ Products Liability</li> </ul>					
8. Habeas Corpus	2 Dabiniy					
9.  Securities Act(s) Cases	8. Products Liability — Asbestos					
10. Social Security Review Cases	9. All other Diversity Cases					
11XX All other Federal Question Cases 29 U.S.C.201 et se (Please specify)	(Please specify)					
ARBITRATION C	iate Category)					
Shanon J. Carson, counsel of record do herel XX Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my kneexceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;	by certify:					
KK Relief other than monetary damages is sought.						
DATE: Sept. 18, 2006 Attorney-at-Law	<del>-85957</del>					
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only	v if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.					
certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case how pendir except as noted above.	ng or within one year previously terminated action in this court					
PATE: Sept. 18, 2006	25057					
CIV. 609 (4/03)	Attorney I.D.#					

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Address of Plaintiff: Donald Lamutis, 6510 Twin Lakes Drive,

Mason, OH 45040

Steven Turner, 3884 Mantell Avenue, Cincinnatti,

OH 45236

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OPAL CHABRIER, DONALD LAMUTIS, and STEVEN TURNER, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

WILMINGTON FINANCE, INC.,

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO.:

**COMPLAINT -- CLASS ACTION** 

#### **COLLECTIVE AND CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

Plaintiffs Opal Chabrier, Donald Lamutis and Steven Turner ("Plaintiffs"), individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated employees of Defendant Wilmington Finance, Inc. ("Defendant"), by and through their counsel of record, bring this Collective And Class Action Complaint (the "Complaint") against Defendant, and allege, upon personal belief as to themselves and their own acts, and as for all other matters upon information and belief, based upon the investigation made by their counsel, as follows:

#### **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

- 1. Plaintiffs bring this Complaint contending that Defendant has improperly classified its loan officers as exempt from the overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq. (the "FLSA"), and similar state fair wage laws, including, without limitation, the Ohio Minimum Fair Wage Standards Act, OH ST § 4111.01 et seq.
- 2. Plaintiffs are current and former employees of Defendant who have been employed as loan officers (also known as account executives and other similarly-titled positions).

During their employment with Defendant, Plaintiffs have regularly worked more than forty (40) hours per week, but have not been compensated for their overtime hours.

- 3. On May 17, 1999, and again on February 16, 1999, the United States Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division, issued Opinion Letters concluding that loan officers such as Plaintiffs and their similarly situated employees are not exempt from the overtime requirements of the FLSA.
- 4. As a result of Defendant's improper and willful classification of its loan officers as exempt from the overtime requirements of the FLSA and similar state fair wage laws,

  Defendant has failed to pay its loan officers overtime for hours they have worked over forty (40) hours per week.
- 5. Plaintiffs bring this action for monetary damages, declaratory and injunctive relief, and other equitable and ancillary relief, to seek redress for Defendant's improper conduct.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 6. The Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), which provides that suit under the FLSA "may be maintained against any employer ... in any Federal or State court of competent jurisdiction." <u>Id</u>.
- 7. In addition, the Court has federal question jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
- 8. The Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state law claims pursuant 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 9. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), because Defendant resides in this District and does business here.

#### **PARTIES**

- 10. Plaintiffs are the individuals named above and those who file consent forms with the Court.
- Plaintiff Opal Chabrier currently resides at 7494 Lofton Court, Florence,
   Kentucky 41017.
- 12. Plaintiff Donald Lamutis currently resides at 6510 Twin Lakes Drive, Mason, Ohio 45040.
- Plaintiff Steven Turner currently resides at 3884 Mantell Avenue, Cincinnati,
   Ohio 45236.
- 14. Defendant is incorporated in the State of Delaware and is registered to transact business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Defendant's corporate headquarters is located in this District, at 401 Plymouth Road, Suite 400, Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania 19462.
- 15. According to Defendant's website, Defendant provides lending services to consumers to purchase and refinance real estate through its wholesale branches, retail call centers and correspondent lending centers throughout the country. Defendant engages in lending services in all states except for Vermont and the District of Columbia. With respect to its lending services, Defendant is organized into two regions, an East Region and a West Region. Defendant's Regional Office for its East Region is located at 105 East Fourth Street, Suite 900A, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. Defendant's Regional Office for its West Region is located at 19000 MacArthur Boulevard, Suite 425, Irvine, California 92612. Defendant also sells loans to consumers through the use of mortgage brokers. According to Defendant's website, Defendant

has twelve (12) "Processing Centers" that are located in Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, New York, Ohio, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Texas, Illinois, Nevada, Oregon and California.

#### **FLSA COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

- 16. This action is brought as a national collective action to recover unpaid overtime compensation, liquidated damages, unlawfully withheld wages, statutory penalties and damages owed to Plaintiffs and all similarly situated current and former employees of Defendant, as well as its subsidiaries and affiliated companies.
- 17. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) of the FLSA, Plaintiffs bring this action individually, and on behalf of all other similarly situated loan officers.
- 18. Plaintiffs estimate that there are at least hundreds of similarly situated loan officers. The precise number of loan officers can be easily ascertained by Defendant. These loan officers can be identified and located using Defendant's payroll and personnel records. Potential opt-in class members may be informed of the pendency of this Collective Action by direct mail and/or published and/or broadcast notice.
- 19. This action is properly maintained as a collective action because Plaintiffs and all Class members are similarly situated. Plaintiffs and other similarly situated loan officers, regardless of their location, are/were subject to the same uniform job descriptions, policies, manuals, guidelines, scripts, standards, and operational procedures. Further, Defendant's policies at issue in this dispute have affected Plaintiffs and similarly situated loan officers in the exact same fashion.
- 20. Defendant willfully and improperly classified Plaintiffs and other similarly situated loan officers as exempt under the FLSA.

21. Plaintiffs will immediately request the Court to authorize notice to all current and former loan officers employed by Defendant and its subsidiaries and affiliated companies, informing them of the pendency of this action and their right to "opt-in" to this lawsuit pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), for the purpose of seeking unpaid overtime compensation and liquidated damages under the FLSA.

#### CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

22. Plaintiffs bring this action individually, and on behalf of the following state-wide class of similarly situated individuals, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure:

all current and former employees of Wilmington Finance, Inc., as well as its subsidiaries and affiliated companies, who at any time during the relevant statute of limitations period were employed as loan officers (also known as account executives and other similarly titled positions), or who otherwise performed the duties of a loan officer, located in the state of Ohio and who worked more than 40 hours in a week but did not receive overtime pay (the "Class").

- 23. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Plaintiffs estimate that the Class numbers in the hundreds. The proposed Class can be identified and located using Defendant's payroll and personnel records. Class members may be informed of the pendency of this Class Action by direct mail and/or published and/or broadcast notice.
- 24. There are questions of law and fact common to the class, including, without limitation:
- a. whether Defendant improperly classified Plaintiffs and the Class as exempt from the Ohio Minimum Fair Wage Standards Act;

- b. whether Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to overtime compensation for services rendered in excess of 40 hours per week under the Ohio Minimum Fair Wage Standards Act;
- c. whether Defendant acted knowingly, willfully or recklessly in violating the Ohio Minimum Fair Wage Standards Act;
- d. whether Defendant conducted an analysis of the Class members' compensation before classifying them as exempt from the Ohio Minimum Fair Wage Standards Act;
- e. whether Defendant conducted an analysis of the Class members' duties and tasks before classifying them as exempt from the Ohio Minimum Fair Wage Standards Act;
  - f. whether Plaintiffs and the Class worked in excess of 40 hours per week;
- g. whether Defendant expected Plaintiffs and the Class to work in excess of 40 hours per week;
- h. whether Defendant required Plaintiffs to falsify their own time records by recording only 40 hours per week even though they regularly worked in excess of 40 hours per week to avoid paying them overtime wages and other benefits;
- i. whether Plaintiffs and the Class have suffered and are entitled to damages,
   and, if so, in what amount;
- j. whether liquidated, punitive damages, or special damages are warranted under the Ohio Minimum Fair Wage Standards Act;
- k. whether Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to declaratory or injunctive relief under the Ohio Minimum Fair Wage Standards Act; and

- whether Defendant's conduct warrants the tolling of the statute of limitations under the Ohio Minimum Fair Wage Standards Act.
- 25. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the Class members. Plaintiffs are all current/former loan officers who have suffered similar injuries as those suffered by the Class members as a result of Defendant's failure to pay overtime. Defendant's conduct in improperly classifying Plaintiffs and the Class as exempt from the Ohio Minimum Fair Wage Standards Act has affected Plaintiffs and the Class in the exact same way.
- 26. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class. Plaintiffs are similarly situated to the Class and have no conflict with the Class members. Plaintiffs have retained competent attorneys who are experienced in class action litigation of this type and who are committed to prosecuting this action.
- 27. This action is properly maintainable as a class action under Rules 23(b)(1), (b)(2) and/or 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because: a) the prosecution of separate actions by or against individual members of the Class would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class that would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendant; b) Defendant, by failing to pay overtime compensation to all loan officers in violation of the Ohio Minimum Fair Wage Standards Act, has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive or declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole; and c) the common questions of law and fact set forth above applicable to the Class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members and a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this case, especially with respect to

considerations of consistency, economy, efficiency, fairness and equity, as compared to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

A class action is also superior to other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because individual joinder of the parties is impracticable. Class action treatment will allow a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently and without the unnecessary duplication of effort and expense if these claims were brought individually. Moreover, as the damages suffered by each Class member may be relatively small, the expenses and burden of individual litigation would make it difficult for the Class members to bring individual claims. The presentation of separate actions by individual Class members could create a risk of inconsistent and varying adjudications, establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendant and/or substantially impair or impede the ability of Class members to protect their interests.

#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION

- 29. Plaintiffs and the Class, who are all current and former loan officers employed by Defendant, routinely worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week without overtime compensation during the relevant statutory period.
- 30. This practice violates the provisions of the FLSA, see 29 U.S.C. § 207(a)(1), as well as state fair wage and hour statutes, including, without limitation, the Ohio Minimum Fair Wage Standards Act. As a result of Defendant's unlawful practice, Plaintiffs and all similarly situated employees have suffered a loss of wages.

- 31. Defendant knew or showed reckless disregard for the fact that its failure to pay loan officers overtime compensation was in violation of these laws. Defendant failed to pay overtime wages and other benefits to Plaintiffs and the Class during their employment by intentionally, willfully and improperly designating the position of loan officer as exempt from federal law in direct violation of the FLSA, despite two Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division, Opinion Letters, dated May 17, 1999 and February 16, 2001, respectively, concluding that loan officers such as Plaintiffs and the Class are not exempt from the overtime requirements of the FLSA.
- 32. Defendant also intentionally and willfully failed to pay overtime wages and other benefits to Plaintiffs as evidenced by their directing them to falsely record a maximum of 40 hours of work time per week even though they actually worked in excess of 40 hours per week.
- 33. Defendant failed to maintain accurate records for each employee of their hours actually worked as required by the law. See 29 C.F.R. §516.2 (a)(7).
- 34. Defendant managed Plaintiffs' work, including the amount of overtime required to be worked in its Cincinnati, Ohio office. Defendant dictated, controlled and ratified the wage and hour and all related employee compensation policies of Defendant's offices located across the country. Defendant's nationwide wage and hour practices and policies are uniform and disseminated from its corporate headquarters, which is located in this District.

# COUNT I FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq. UNPAID WAGES/OVERTIME

35. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference, all preceding paragraphs.

- 36. Section 207(a)(1) of the FLSA states that an employee must be paid overtime, equal to 1.5 times the employee's regular rate of pay, for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week. Plaintiffs and similarly situated loan officers regularly worked more than 40 hours per week, but were not paid overtime. Defendant failed to pay overtime wages and other benefits to Plaintiffs and the similarly situated loan officers by intentionally, willfully and improperly designating them as exempt from the FLSA despite two Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Divisions Opinion Letters, dated May 17, 1999 and February 16, 2001, respectively, concluding that loan officers are not exempt from the overtime requirements of the FLSA.
- 37. Defendant also willfully failed to pay overtime wages and other benefits to Plaintiffs by requiring them to falsify their own time records by recording only forty (40) hours per week even though they regularly worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week to avoid paying them overtime wages and other benefits.
  - 38. The foregoing actions of Defendant violate the FLSA.
  - 39. Defendant's actions were willful and not in good faith.
- 40. Defendant is liable to Plaintiffs and similarly situated loan officers for actual damages, liquidated damages and equitable relief, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), as well as reasonable attorney's fees, costs and expenses.

# COUNT II DECLARATORY RELIEF

- 41. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference, all preceding paragraphs.
- 42. Plaintiffs and similarly situated loan officers are entitled to a declaration of their rights in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 2201, and seek a declaratory judgment that they are non-

exempt employees under the FLSA and are, therefore, entitled to overtime compensation pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 207(a)(1). Further, and in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 2202, Plaintiffs and similarly situated loan officers seek an Order requiring that Defendants pay them overtime compensation pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §207(a)(1).

43. Plaintiffs and similarly situated loan officers seek all further relief, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 2201, et seq., as may be necessary, proper and just.

# COUNT III INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

- 44. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference, all preceding paragraphs.
- 45. Plaintiffs and similarly situated loan officers seek any and all equitable and injunctive relief as may be necessary and appropriate to secure and protect their rights under the FLSA, including, without limitation, an Order providing for the retention of the Court's jurisdiction in this matter to prevent any future violations of FLSA by Defendant and to prevent Defendant from engaging in any retaliatory conduct against similarly situated loan officers who have asserted their rights under the FLSA.

# COUNT IV OHIO MINIMUM FAIR WAGE STANDARDS ACT OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 4111 et seq. UNPAID WAGES/OVERTIME

- 46. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference, all preceding paragraphs.
- 47. Plaintiffs Donald Lamutis and Steven Turner reside in Ohio. Plaintiffs Chabrier, Lamutis and Turner worked for Defendant at its offices located in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 48. The foregoing actions and/or omissions of Defendant constitute violations of the Ohio Minimum Fair Wage Standards Act, OH ST § 4111.01 *et seq*.

49. Defendant is liable to Plaintiffs for the full amount of their wage rates, costs and attorney's fees, pursuant to OH ST § 4111.10.

#### **JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury as to all issues so triable.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully pray that the Court enter an order:

- a. certifying this action as a collective action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b);
- b. ordering Defendant to file with this Court and furnish to counsel a list of all names and addresses of all loan officers who have worked for Defendant during the preceding three (3) years, and authorizing Plaintiffs' counsel to issue notice at the earliest possible time to these individuals, informing them that this action has been filed, of the nature of the action, and of their right to opt-in to this lawsuit if they worked hours in excess of forty (40) hours in a week during the liability period, but were not paid overtime as required by the FLSA;
- c. adjudicating and declaring that Defendant's conduct as set forth above is in violation of the FLSA;
- d. adjudicating and declaring that Plaintiffs and similarly situated loan officers are non-exempt employees under the FLSA and are entitled to overtime compensation for hours worked in excess of forty hours per week;
- e. adjudicating and declaring that Defendant violated the FLSA by failing to pay Plaintiffs and similarly situated loan officers for their hours worked in excess of forty hours per week;

- f. certifying an Ohio state-wide class of Class members pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;
- g. adjudicating and declaring that Defendant's conduct as set forth above is in violation of the Ohio Minimum Fair Wage Standards Act;
- h. adjudicating and declaring that Defendant willfully violated the FLSA and the Ohio Minimum Fair Wage Standards Act;
- i. awarding Plaintiffs and similarly situated loan officers overtime wages in an amount consistent with the FLSA and the Ohio Minimum Fair Wage Standards Act;
- j. awarding Plaintiffs and similarly situated loan officers liquidated damages in accordance with the FLSA, and any liquidated, punitive or special damages that may be due and owing for violation of the Ohio Minimum Fair Wage Standards Act;
- k. awarding Plaintiffs reasonable attorneys' fee and all costs of this action, to be paid by Defendant, in accordance with the FLSA and the Ohio Minimum Fair Wage Standards Act;
- 1. declaring in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-2202 that Plaintiffs and the Class are non-exempt, and, therefore, entitled to overtime compensation pursuant to the FLSA and the Ohio Minimum Fair Wage Standards Act;
- m. awarding pre and post-judgment interest and court costs as further allowed by law;
- n. granting Plaintiffs leave to amend to add claims under applicable state laws;

- o. granting Plaintiffs and the Class leave to add additional plaintiffs by motion, the filing of written consent forms, or any other method approved by the Court; and
- p. for all additional general and equitable relief to which Plaintiffs and the Class may be entitled.

Dated: September 18, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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